Spring has sprung; I love this time of year. It’s a time of change, renewal, celebration, and another opportunity to refocus and rededicate ourselves to those elements of life that bring others joy, excitement and hope! When I arrive home from work, there’s plenty of daylight remaining, so I walk our small yard in anticipation, continually fascinated by the resurrected colors of spring. Our four Crape Myrtles are beginning to bloom (each tree in the exact order in which they bloom every year), the Mountain Laurel's sweet smell and purple blooms is fleeting but a highlight, the back fence is alive with a blanket of red blossoms on a sea of green, our red, yellow and pink Hibiscus light up our flower beds and patio trumpeting the rebirth of springtime. If I drive slowly, closely watching the deer in Hollywood Park, even they seem to have an extra ‘kick’ in their ‘gitty-up’ as they dart between the Red Buds, surgically devouring the new growth. No matter how mild of a winter we may have, I always look forward to this time of year. Spring is magic, reaching its summit in the majestic celebration of Easter. The season calls us to a renewed hope in the midst of challenging times. And, like it or not, the smells and sounds of weekly mowing, edging, and trimming are just around the corner!

Change, new beginnings, celebration: none of these are new experiences at UTSA. They are now a part of our Business Affairs culture; not just during one special season of the year, but continuously. Maybe that’s why I enjoy working here as much as I do; it reminds me of my favorite season.

A new football program, new dining facilities and research buildings, a new Strategic Plan to be implemented, a new comprehensive Master Plan, are the most visible of our many initiatives. Behind the scenes though, policies, processes and procedures are changing as we adapt to the challenges of growth with a new emphasis on our research and educational missions. I commend you all for your dedication, service and your willingness to aggressively travel the difficult, yet exhilarating road of change, often and unfortunately not appreciated by the benefactors. But we celebrate nevertheless, expressing our deep gratitude to those exemplifying excellence in all we do.

I must go now as the sun is setting and I want to see the progress our Crape Myrtles, Lantana and Hawthornes are making in welcoming springtime to our small oasis and place of escape, which I call home.

Kerry
The Transportation Services division of Business Auxiliary Services began a pilot program providing van service from the 1604 campus to University Heights on March 3rd. Each Tuesday, this service is provided between 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The capacity of the van is limited to six passengers. Service from the Main Building to University Heights (main entrance at Human Resources) is every 30 minutes. The last shuttle leaves from the Main Building at 1:00 p.m., and service terminates at 1:30 p.m.

Gilbert Perez is an Electrician II at the DTC. He has been with UTSA almost eight years. He began at ITC in 1999 and then after a short break in service took a position at the DTC in 2001.

Gilbert has close to three decades of experience in the electrical field, and holds a journeyman electrical license. He has a broad knowledge of the electrical field with seven years working in refineries, nuclear plants and off shore wells, thirteen years experience with civil service rewiring jets and these last eight years at UTSA.

Gilbert has found his niche in educational facilities here at UTSA. He enjoys working at the DTC where Facilities is team oriented. The Facilities staff do whatever is needed. It is not uncommon for Gilbert to assist the movers, or maintenance workers or the control technicians to change lamps or assist with running wire.

One of his favorite times is in May and June each year when he assists ITC with the Texas Folklife Festival. DTC Facilities assists in the monumental task of set up and tear down, and also assists during the huge event. Gilbert and his electrical expertise is a key part of the team.

With the DTC only one-fifth the size of the 1604 campus, Gilbert is the only electrician at the campus. He is responsible for all electrical needs from replacing lamps to running new circuits. Even though the campus is smaller, it is a full time job keeping up with the demands of the busy facility.

Gilbert recently won the Facilities Monthly Award for his creative and energy saving project of replacing high energy consuming lamps and fixtures with energy saving ones. He was nominated by Joe Rubio, DTC Facilities Director, who states, “Gilbert is a major asset to the organization, who assists in all areas of facilities. He is a team player who goes above and beyond on a consistent basis.”

Gilbert is a native of Laredo, Texas. He and his wife, Lerida have a 13 year old daughter, Sophia. His favorite hobby is restoring antique cars. Gilbert drives a 1957 Chevy pick up that he has completely restore.

Thank you, Gilbert, for your service to Business Affairs and the University.

CONGRATULATIONS!
89.24%

Thank you for your dedication, participation and time in making Business Affairs a truly wonderful place to work – EVERY person, EVERY day, EVERY job!

Gilbert will be receiving a Roadrunner meal card to use for either breakfast, lunch or dinner at the Roadrunner Cafe, compliments of ARAMARK. Our thanks to ARAMARK for their support!
Kudos to Business Affairs Staff

Now Official—Concentra will be the contract health care provider for our Occupational Health Program.

Great job, Brian (Moroney) and John (DeLaHunt) and everyone else who helped in this effort.

This is a giant step forward.

Jim MacMillian

Thanks to everyone. We appreciate your dedication in getting our occupational health program in place.

Dr. Marianne R. Woods
Senior Associate Vice President

Good job Brian, this is a major milestone and we think you did a terrific job.

Marcel Perret-Gentil
Director, Lab Animals Research

Thank you all for striving for excellence every day!

University Police

I wanted to take the time to say thank you for all of your support during the planning of the Election Night Party. Captain Sonego, it was a pleasure working with you. Thank you for doing everything to help ensure the safety and security of all UTSA students, faculty and staff. SGA could not have hosted such a historic and successful event if it was not for your office.

Thank you,

Christina Gomez
SGA President

Dear Mr. Riker,

I am writing to you and copying Mr. Rubio to express to you the fantastic job Mr. Michael Luna and other members of your staff do at the UTSA Downtown Campus in keeping our studios clean and in great condition. I wanted to take the time to let you know that Mr. Luna is a very respectable and considerate building maintenance staff person. It is not everyday that one takes the time to let you know that someone in your staff is worthy of this recognition. I know it is not easy following up after architecture students in the studio, but I know that several of us have noticed the work that he does since we started in the summer of 2008. You are fortunate to have a dedicated staff person such as Mr. Luna, who makes our stay at UTSA that much better. There are probably about four studio classes going on at once and we have access to the studio throughout the day and evening, so graduate architecture students are always there, I can tell that he wants our studios to be at their best and he even works around our schedule they are. He even works around our schedule during our assigned studio time so that we are able to work at our best. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Andy Alarcon

Dear Jane (Wilcox),

Yesterday I locked my keys in my car at UH. I locked my keys in my care several months ago, The police responded to my call for help, and after 45 minutes and two separate guards giving it their all... the door could not be opened. They mentioned that better tools were needed and expressed frustration at not having better equipment.

So imagine my surprise when one of your Parking student workers shows up and unlocks my car in under five minutes with some fancy tools. The gentleman, Wes Kazmierski was very nice, polite and professional.

Thanks for the fabulous service by one of your employees.

Heather (Foster)
Compliance Office
UTSA Hosts HUB Vendor Fairs

The Department of Purchasing and Distribution Services will host two HUB Vendor Fairs for faculty, staff, and students at the end of March. All are invited to the events where they can meet vendors who provide products and services to UTSA. Several, but not all, of the vendors are HUB certified.

The event will include more than 40 business exhibitors ready to showcase their products and services to the UTSA Community. The event is free and door prizes will be drawn throughout the day. At the 1604 Campus Fair, a hot Bill Miller’s BBQ lunch will be served at noon to the first 200 people attending the fair.

At the Downtown Campus, a light breakfast will be served beginning at 9:30 a.m. to the first 100 attending.


Please join us at one of the HUB Vendor Fairs!

UTSA 1604 Campus
Wednesday, March 25, 2009
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
UTSA Convocation Center

UTSA Downtown Campus
Tuesday, March 31, 2009
9:00 am to 12:00 pm
Meeting Assembly Room BV 1.338

MS Renovation and Infill

A major addition and renovation to the MS Building is scheduled to begin in early March 2009. This construction will have an impact on operations and activities inside the MS Building, due to the size and complexity of the project. Ingress and egress to the building will not be significantly affected; however, pedestrian traffic flow outside of the building must be temporarily diverted to the west side of construction and onto the adjacent sidewalks at UC III.

The new area (approximately 5,800 square feet) will house offices for operations and support of Business Auxiliary Services, Parking & Transportation, and Card Services. Project completion is expected in late August 2009.

Update—Recyclemaniacs 2009

The University of Texas at San Antonio is continuing its participation in Recyclemania, the nationwide recycling competition for colleges and universities, for the 3rd consecutive year.

The event began January 30th and continues through March 28th. UTSA is in 180th place out of 287 colleges and universities competing for the Gorilla Prize (highest gross tonnage of recyclables, regardless of campus population). From January 17th to February 26th UTSA has collected 18.8 tons of recyclable material. To see more results log onto the Recyclemania website at www.recyclemaniacs.org and click on Results.

If you are interested in finding out how you can contribute to the recycling program at UTSA, please visit the Environmental Health, Safety and Risk Management website at http://utsa.edu/safety/Recycling/index.cfm.

Worth Remembering

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.

- Aristotle
UTSA faculty and staff members are invited to join a new free wellness program, Rowdy New U. The six-month pilot wellness program kick-off will be outside the Main Building on the 1604 Campus at noon, Tuesday, March 31 with a group walk to the west lawn of the Convocation Center. At the Convocation Center, President Ricardo Romo and Provost John Frederick will introduce the new wellness program.

At the event, there will be registration tables and the Health and Kinesiology Mobile Health Lab to provide free baseline health screenings. Participants are invited to bring lunch; healthy snacks and water will be provided.

For more information:
458-6751
www.utsa.edu/safety/wellness
www.utsa.edu/safety/wellness

REMINDER.....
Please email us the new employees in your department, so we can add them to the newsletter mailing.

Business Affairs Promise
We are committed to helping you achieve your goals through excellence in service -- every person, every day, every job.